

**BY-LAWS  
PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF MISSOURI**

We, the people of Missouri, in order to form a political party committed to Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Nonviolence, and Participatory Democracy, and according to the laws and customs of the State of Missouri, do hereby set forth these Bylaws of the Progressive Party of Missouri.

**ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE**

The name of this political party is the Progressive Party of Missouri.

Mission Statement and Values:

The Progressive Party exists to provide genuine representation by and for the people of Missouri to: preserve and restore viable ecosystems; establish social justice and equality; foster participatory democracy and open, honest political dialogue; promote and practice non-violence as a means of conflict resolution; and promote community-based economic systems. The mission includes: securing and maintaining ballot status according to the laws of Missouri; participating in electoral and legislative activities; and participating in social movements related to green value-oriented issues.

This party is based upon the founding principle that what we do to get where we are going defines who we become when we get there. We will consistently prioritize honesty and integrity, and strive for impeccability in the way that we follow our process. We are committed to active non-violent communication. This means open and direct communication respectful of each person involved that utilizes a solid conflict resolution practice when differences can not be reconciled. We are committed to inclusion as a principle. We are inclusive of people from all walks of life and of ideas that may differ from the group norm, provided that they adhere to the ten key values of the Green Party movement.

The Progressive Party is based on these values: Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Nonviolence, Grassroots Democracy, Community-Based Economics, Respect for Diversity, Decentralization, Personal and Global Responsibility, Gender Equality and Cooperative Partnerships, Future Focus and Sustainability.

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the Progressive Party must:

1. Live in the state of Missouri
2. Be committed to the Mission statement, values, and process of the Progressive Party.
3. Be willing to commit resources to the party (such as time, skills, money, etc.).
4. Have signed a registration form with the party, which will be for internal and non-legal use only.

5. No one will be allowed to register with the Party if they are a member of another established political party.

Determination of the status of members will be the responsibility of the organized county committees. If a member lives in a county that is not organized, the determination of status will be the responsibility of the state coordinating council until the county is organized.

### **ARTICLE III – STRUCTURE**

#### **A. County Committees:**

The county committee is the basic unit of the Progressive Party that encourages the establishment of committees in each of the 114 counties in Missouri. A county committee is defined as a group of at least three members who are legal residents of that county and have become members of the Progressive Party according to Article II.

1. Each county shall elect representatives to the state coordinating council on the following basis. (It is understood that at some future time, proportional representation will be adopted).
  - a. In order to be considered an organized county committee, the group must have a minimum of three members. If the county committee has three members, two representative will be chosen, with an attempt made at gender balance.
  - b. If the county committee has ten or more members, four representatives will be chosen, with an attempt made at gender balance.
  - c. If a member resides in an unorganized county, that member may join with other unorganized counties and elect representatives on the same formula as above.
  - d. If a county committee is unable to send all their representatives to a meeting of the state coordinating council, they shall be allowed to send one proxy vote, subject to certification by the Membership Committee.
2. Each county shall determine its own members and maintain its own membership forms and records, submitting duplicates to the membership chair of the state coordinating council. The qualification for membership shall be consistent with the state bylaws. If there is no official county committee, the state membership chair shall maintain those records.
3. The county is the basic organizing unit and is autonomous, with the exception that it is bound by the decisions made by the bi-annual conventions.

B. State Coordinating Council:

The State Coordinating Council is made up of elected representatives from the county committees as outlined in (A) above. This council shall meet at least once per year or more as necessary to:

- Establish and oversee standing committees and working groups.
- Elect state officers, recall state officers if need be, and replace state officers.
- Facilitate the electoral and legislative efforts of the party.
- Review and screen candidates for statewide offices.
- Adopt the annual budget and oversees fundraising.
- All meetings will be open to the entire statewide membership and notice of state coordinating council meetings must be sent out at least one month prior to the event to every county committee and as widely as possible to the general membership.

C. Bi-annual convention of the party:

All members of the party shall meet bi-annually to:

- Select statewide candidates
- Select presidential electors
- Adopt the state platform
- Adopt and change by-laws.
- Elect delegates and alternates to the National Committee of the US-GP

Notice of the convention must be sent out at least two months prior to the event. All certified members attending the convention will have one vote.

D. State Officers:

State Officers are elected by the state coordinating council at its annual meeting.

1. Co-Chairs (One woman and one man): The powers and duties of state party co-chairs are as follows:
  - a. Plan state conventions and meetings of the state coordinating council, prepare an agenda and appoint a facilitator for such meetings.
  - b. Act as a liaison with county committees and specify a month for elections of representatives to the state coordinating council.
  - c. Act as a liaison with chairpersons of committees and working groups established by the state coordinating council.
  - d. Act as general spokespersons for the state party.
  - e. Call meetings of the steering committee
2. Secretary:
  - a. Act as liaison with the web masters of the party.
  - b. Take notes and preserve all minutes of the meeting of the state convention and the state coordinating council.
  - c. Publish minutes of (b) above to all members via e-mail.

3. Treasurer:
  - a. Keep the accounts of the Progressive Party and prepare twice-yearly financial statements.
  - b. Be the chair of the state finance committee.
  - c. Make sure that our records and contributions fulfill the laws of the State of Missouri and the Federal Election Commission.
  - d. With the approval of the steering committee, shall appoint an assistant treasurer to assist in duties.
  
4. Fundraiser:
  - a. Organizes fundraising events for the party.
  - b. Chairs the fundraising committee.
  - c. Solicits and coordinates solicitation of contributions from the membership, the public, and from those local businesses that embody Green values.
  - d. Works closely with the treasurer to provide an accurate accounting of all funds raised.
  
5. Outreach and Membership Officer:
  - a. Will be the chair of the outreach committee
  - b. Keep the registration forms
  - c. Maintain the database for the party
  - d. Build up the membership
  - e. Encourage formation of new county committees.
  - f. Be responsible for credentialing for state coordinating council meetings and voting members at bi-annual conventions.
  - g. With the approval of the steering committee, appoints a webmaster who will maintain electronic mailing lists and a listserv for the members and a web wage for outreach and general communications
  
6. Media Officer:
  - a. Will be the media contact for the state party and coordinate with media contacts in each county.
  - b. Will serve as chair for the media standing committee
  - c. At the discretion of the co-chairs, may also act as party spokesperson.
  - d. Writes and disseminates news releases regarding major decisions and actions of the party.
  - e. Actively promotes the Progressive Party to news organizations and the media.
  
7. Delegates to the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States
  - a. Attend all official meetings of the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States if at all possible.
  - b. Vote on line for Green Party of the United States proposals after seeking input from State Coordinating Council.
  
8. Alternate Delegates to the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States shall fulfill the duties of the Delegates to the National Committee of the Green Party of the-United States when the Delegates are unable to do so.

E. Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee shall guide the party between meetings of the state coordinating council. Composition of the Steering Committee shall be the two co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, and the outreach/membership officer.

F. General Duties of State Officers:

1. Participate in discussions and decisions of the steering committee.
2. Represent the views of the standing committees that they chair to the steering committee.
3. Make proposals regarding policy to the steering committee and seek approval of those proposals.

G. Terms of Office:

The terms of all elected officers and elected representatives of the governing bodies shall be one year, except the co-chairs who will serve two years on a rotating basis. The year will begin on the first day after that person's election and continue until that person's successor is elected or appointed. No person may serve more than three consecutive terms.

H. Recall and Reinstatement:

State party officers can be recalled if they fail in their duties, as described in III/D. Any officer may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of the state coordinating council. Notice of a hearing and vote for removal, signed by at least five members of the Progressive Party, must be sent by the state coordinating council to all county committees at least two weeks in advance of such a vote. The vote may occur at a regular or specially convened meeting of the state coordinating council.

In the event that a state party officer is recalled by the state coordinating council, that officer may appeal that decision to the party membership via the county committees. To do so, first a notice of petition for a hearing on overturning the recall signed by at least five party members must be sent to the state coordinating council and the membership via the county committees. The petitioners and the recalled officer must appear at the hearing, which is held by the state coordinating committee at a date and place mutually agreeable to all parties involved. A report of the hearing must be sent to the membership via the county committees within two weeks of the hearing. The county committees are responsible for convening a vote on overturning the recall and for publicizing this vote to all members within their county. The county committees must report on the results of these votes to the state coordinating council within two weeks of the vote. A consensus or three-fourths vote of all state party members is needed to overturn a recall decision by the state coordinating council and reinstate the officer.

Any state party officer may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the Progressive Party. Notice of a vote for removal, signed by at least five members, must be sent to the state coordinating council and to the county committees at least two weeks in advance of such a vote. The vote may occur at the annual convention, a specially convened membership meeting, or by a mail ballot.

#### **ARTICLE IV. – STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. Outreach/Membership
- B. Fundraising
- C. Platform
- D. Candidate Development & Recruitment
- E. Media
- F. Finance

#### **ARTICLE V. – WORKING GROUPS**

- A. These will be ad hoc issue-oriented groups that will be established at the bi-annual conventions. They may work with the platform committee on developing issue statements and strategies.
- B. All working groups will disband at the bi-annual convention unless specifically reinstated

#### **ARTICLE VI – PARTY PLATFORM**

The Progressive Party shall adopt a platform based on the four pillars and mission statement that clearly defines the party's position on issues facing our society and the world. The platform will be a guide for elected officials and other members of the Progressive Party engaged in public policy making. Unless it is otherwise negotiated, all candidates of the Progressive Party shall agree to run on this platform. The platform shall be adopted and amended at a state convention by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present.

#### **ARTICLE VII – FINANCES**

The Progressive Party may not incur debt for any reason. The treasurer and co-chairs of the Progressive Party and members of the state coordinating council are responsible for insuring that the party does not incur any debt. The state coordinating council shall adopt an annual budget prepared by the finance committee and the treasurer shall report the financial status of the party twice a year, including once at the annual meeting of the state coordinating council.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE AND ENDORSEMENTS OF INITIATIVES**

- A. Candidates running on the Progressive Party ticket:

Any candidate for public office who runs as a member of the Progressive Party may be endorsed by the party if that person agrees to:

1. Promote the Four Pillars, the Ten Key Values, and the platform of the Progressive Party.

2. Be solely responsible for all financial obligations incurred by the candidate's electoral campaign.
3. Be solely responsible for compliance with all requirements of law for reporting campaign income and expenditures.
4. Accept campaign contributions only as specified by the party.
5. Agree to run on the state party platform and/or the platform of the Green Party of the United States.
6. Neither the party nor its candidates will seek or accept contributions from corporations, except for in-kind, local contributions.

B. Statewide offices:

1. The state coordinating council of the Progressive Party, in consultation with the county committees, shall determine if a candidate meets the qualifications of the Progressive Party. In the event that the candidate is rejected for official nomination, the candidate may appeal to county committees for approval; the support of three-fourths of the membership of those county committees with jurisdiction over the office sought is necessary to overrule the state coordinating council decision. Official nomination may be revoked by the same process.
  2. Candidates for statewide office will be nominated by instant runoff voting at statewide conventions of the membership, and "None of the Above" will always be a potential candidate.
- C. U.S. Congress, County or Local Offices. The decision to nominate will be made at the appropriate level by the membership of all those county committees within that jurisdiction.
- D. Referenda to put legislation or constitution initiatives on the ballot: The same process as in (B) shall apply. Decisions to support or initiate Referenda will be made at the statewide conventions; or if this is not possible because of the time frame, at the state coordinating council meeting.

ARTICLE IX – RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITES STATES

- A. The Progressive Party of Missouri shall abide by its affiliation agreement with the Green Party of the United States.
- B. The Progressive Party of Missouri shall elect the required number of delegates and alternates to the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States.
- C. National Presidential Nominating Convention of the Green Party of the United States:
  1. The Progressive Party of Missouri shall send delegates to the National Presidential Nominating Convention in proportion to the results of a vote for presidential candidates

conducted at its bi-annual convention immediately preceding the National Presidential Nominating Convention.

2. The Progressive Party of Missouri will run the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates selected at the National Presidential Nominating Convention of the Green Party of the United States on its ballot line.

#### **ARTICLE X – UNIFORM STATE RULES**

- A. For decisions made by governing bodies of the Progressive Party, consensus will be sought. If that fails, a simple majority will prevail except in specific decisions outlined in these by-laws.
- B. If all delegates of a particular county are unable to attend a meeting of the state coordinating council, the remaining delegates may exercise one proxy vote for the missing delegate, but at least one delegate from that county must be in attendance and no delegate may carry more than one proxy vote.
- C. There shall be no proxy voting at the statewide conventions.

#### **ARTICLE XI – ADOPTING AND AMENDING BY-LAWS**

These by-laws and amendment thereto may only be adopted at a statewide convention of the Progressive Party by a vote of three-fourths of the members who are present. Amendments must be submitted in writing to all members at least one month prior to the convention. Amendments may be proposed by any member of any organized group within the Progressive Party.

**THIS IS A DOCUMENT IN PROCESS AND WILL OF NECESSITY BE AMENDED AS THE PARTY GROWS AND WHEN IT BECOMES AN ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY UNDER THE ELECTORAL LAWS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.**

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